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Repts 6

DCI/IC-75-3931

29 OCT 1975

The Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Jack:

Reference is your memorandum of 24 October requesting comments on its enclosed redraft of the Executive Order on the PABFIC which had been circulated some days earlier.

I note that the redraft does not reflect any of the specific changes to the 15 October draft which I had proposed in my comments forwarded 20 October, but on the assumption that my suggested amendments were considered during preparation of the redraft, I am not repeating any of them.

With respect to Section 7(a), I favor the wording as contained in the draft E.O. rather than the revision set forth in your memorandum which would ban the use of detailees on the PABFIC staff.

I do this with complete awareness that the detailee system might be subject to public and Congressional misunderstanding--but we are seeking to correct any possible misunderstanding in our contact with the House Select Committee on Intelligence, whose staff has raised an allegation of CIA "penetration" of other elements of the Government.

I cannot in good conscience recommend that intelligence professionals be excluded, in effect, from an organization such as the PABFIC staff will be.

It is my belief that the PABFIC will require a fairly large staff, since it will have two broad and quite different functions--the oversight of quality control with respect to the total performance of the Intelligence Community and inspectorate responsibilities. These two kinds of activities will require personnel of perceptibly different backgrounds and outlooks if they are to be discharged well. The PABFIC function will be enhanced by personnel who bring a background of knowledge to the staff.

A ban on detailing could well cause experienced personnel who could make a valuable contribution to the PABFIC to be reluctant to join the staff. This might particularly be the case with CIA personnel who have sufficient overseas service to be covered by the CIA Retirement and Disability system, since their resignation from CIA to accept other Federal employment would end their participation in the CIARDS.

I am assuming, also, that a ban on detailing would prevent the assignment of any active duty military personnel to the PABFIC staff, which would deny the staff military experience which has been valuable in the past.

I am not aware of any evidence that Agency detailees ever have sought to influence PFIAB deliberations in a manner which could be the basis for criticism. On the contrary, I consider it is far better to have experienced personnel, well informed on how the Intelligence Community operates, detailed to the PABFIC staff than to run the risks which would be involved with a staff without such experience.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. R. Colby

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